

Message Text

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TAGS: ETEL, IMCO
SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS ON INMARSAT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

REF: THE HAGUE 6493

1. HANS SONDAAL OF DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS BRIEFED EMBASSY ON PROCEEDINGS OF DISUCSSIONS HELD NOV 29-30 IN LONDON IN PREPARATION FOR INMARSAT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING. LONDON SESSION WAS ATTENDED BY REPS FROM AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, ESA, FRANCE, FRG, INDIA, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, SAPIN, SWEDEN, UK, AND USSR.

2. IN ADDITION TO US PROPOSED AGENDA CIRCULATED BY SONDAAL, UK INTRODUCED DRAFT. IT WAS AGREED THAT IMCO SECRETARIAT WOULD PREPARE AMALGAM OF BOTH DRAFTS FOR CONSIDERATION OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE.

3. DISCUSSION OF WORK PROGRAM PRODUCED PAPERS BY AUSTRALIA AND UK (SONDAAL UNDERSTANDS THAT DELEGATIONS PRESENTING PAPERS HAVE PROVIDED COPIES TO DELEGATIONS NOT PRESENT AT MEETING). PREFERENCE FOR THREE PANELS EMERGED: TECHNICAL; AND LEGAL. SWEDEN INTRODUCED PAPER CALLING FOR MARKET
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RESEARCH STUDY.

4. REST OF DISCUSSION CENTERED ON RULES OF PROCEDURE. PAPERS WERE INTRODUCED BY UK AND USSR, LATTER ALSO DEALING EXTENSIVELY WITH FINANCIAL REGULATIONS. AUSTRALIAN PAPER ON WORK PROGRAM ALSO TOUCHED ON RULES OF PROCEDURE.

DISCUSSIONS OF RULES OF PROCEDURE INDICATED GENERAL DOUBT ABOUT USEFULNESS OF MORE THAN THREE MEETINGS PER YEAR, BUT USSR STILL WANTS FOUR. DISCUSSION OF OBSERVER QUESTION ENDED WITH AGREEMENT THAT IMCO WOULD INFORM POTENTIAL OBSERVERS OF FIRST MEETING, BUT PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ITSELF WOULD MAKE DECISION ON ATTENDANCE. OBSERVERS WILL BE INVITED TO SECOND AND LATER MEETINGS. MEETINGS WILL NOT BE PUBLIC. SONDAAL THINKS COMMITTEE WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT AT LEAST THREE VICE CHAIRMEN: ONE US, ONE USSR AND ONE LDC. DISCUSSIONS FAVORED TERM OF CHAIRMAN TO RUN FOR ENTIRE PERIOD, ALTHOUGH AUSTRALIANS WANTED ONE YEAR TERM WITH POSSIBILITY OF REELECTION. (SONDAAL WAS DISCUSSED AS CHAIRMAN. HE IS FLATTERED, BUT NOT ENTHUSIASTIC.) CHAIRMEN OF THE THREE PANELS SHOULD BE APPOINTED BY PREPARATORY COMMITTEE.

5. IT WAS AGREED THAT SUSPENSION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE SHOULD REQUIRE A TWO THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE, EXCEPT WHERE PROCEDURAL RULES WERE CONTAINED IN THE MOTION.

6. ON SECRETARIAT, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN, NORWAY AND UK PREFER IT TO BE SEPARATE FROM IMCO. UK PTT IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE INITIAL FACILITIES AND WILL GIVE COSTS AND WHAT PORTION IT IS PREPARED TO ABSORB AT FIRST MEETING. USSR PREFERRED TO USE IMCO SECRETARIAT PROVIDED IT WOULD NOT LEAD TO AN EXPANSION OF IMCO.

7. ALTHOUGH IMCO HAD NOT RECEIVED 14 FORMAL NOTIFICATIONS BY DEC 1 DEADLINE, THEY HAD SUFFICIENT INDICATION OF INTEREST TO GO AHEAD AND CALL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING.
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ING.

8. WE ARE FORWARDING PROPOSED AGENDA, DIVISION OF RESOLUTION TWO TASKS AMONG PANELS AND SWEDISH MARKET STUDY PAPER VIA AIRMAIL TO FREEMAN. SONDAAL CAN PROVIDE OTHER DOCUMENTS IF NECESSARY.
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